

JOSEPH OSBORNE WALKER



1887—Born at Sweetwater, Tennessee, of Scotch-Irish parents.

1893-1897—Attended public schools.

1897—Father killed by railway accident, leaving wife and three children, one boy and two girls.

1897-1903—Attended public schools.

1903-1906—Attended Tennessee Military Institute, gaining rank of Cadet Captain. Took up study of shorthand, typewriting and bookkeeping. Worked way through school, keeping books and doing stenographic work. Was appointed Private Secretary to President of School. Quarter-

back College football team and interested in all athletics.

1907—Stenographer-bookkeeper, lumber company, at small lumber town in mountains of North Carolina.

1908-1911—Private Secretary President Tennessee Military Institute, also member of faculty, teaching Shorthand, Typewriting and Bookkeeping. Took post-graduate work Psychology and Political Economy.

1912-1913—Two years as traveling salesman, selling cut glass, crochery and enamels, in Southern and Southwestern States as well as on the Pacific Coast, in California, Oregon and Washington. During this period became very much interested in 5 and 10 cent business. Frequently spent better part of Saturday afternoons in Charlton and Kress stores.

1914-1915—Entered 5-10-25c store business. Opened two stores in North Carolina, operating them successfully for over two years. Sold stores to syndicate at profit.

1916—After a careful investigation of the various 5 and 10 cent stores, entered the employ of the S. S. Kresge Company, accepting position offered by Mr. A. N. McFadyen. The worst flood in history of Southern states destroyed miles of railway, making it necessary to ride made twenty-two miles to railway supposed to be in operation. After reaching it found track washed away, and walked fifteen miles after five o'clock in afternoon to get home and catch train to Detroit. Have never regretted decision to become one of the big Kresge family. Given management Store 119, Richmond, Virginia.

1917—Manager Store 119, Richmond, Virginia.

1918—Manager Store 160, Chicago, Illinois.

1919—Superintendent 35 and 50 Cent Stores.

1920—Superintendent 35 and 50 Cent Stores. Still single, but have hopes.

WILLIAM F. LENTZ

1880—Born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

1888-1894—Attended city schools.

1894—Attended business institute in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., working after school hours.

1894-1904—Employed by James Long's Sons, department store, at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., starting in as errand boy. During this period had the opportunity of gaining experience in every capacity from errand boy up, receiving practical experience of selling methods and responsibility of store management. Intimate contact with executives and department managers broadened this experience. Believes this thorough training had powerful influence on later development of mercantile life.



1904—Married schoolmate, Miss Anna Bendor of Wilkes-Barre.

1905—Started to learn the 5 and 10c business in Memphis, Tenn.

1905-1907—Manager of store at Fort Smith, Ark. Took the Sheldon School Correspondence Course on "The Science of Business Building."

1907-1909—Returned to Memphis as Manager of store where training started in 1905.

1910—Started with S. S. Kresge Co., store No. 30, Philadelphia, Pa., then later as Manager of store No. 4, Pittsburgh, Pa.

1912—Short period as Superintendent. Manager of store No. 1.

1916—During erection of new No. 1 made trip to Orient in interest of firm.

1916-1920—Manager of store No. 1, Detroit, Mich.